

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 11099 210637 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 012586

R 210240 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3469

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11099

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: 78 TH RANGERS IN QUANG NAM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

DANANG 0749

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VY

SUBJ: 78 TH RANGERS IN QUANG NAM

1. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS THE THIRD COMPANY 78 RANGER BATTALION HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ELEMENTS OF THE 711 DIV IN THE AREA SOUTH- SOUTHWEST OF DUC DUC DISTRICT TOWN ON THE WESTERN BANK OF THE THU BON RIVER. CONGEN POLOFF WAS BRIEFED ON SITUATION BY THE G-3, ARVN THIRD DIV AND OBTAINED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

2. THE THIRD COMPANY HAD OCCUPIED THREE LOW- HILL MASSES IN DUI CHIEN (IMPROPERLY SPELLED DUI CHIEU IN SOME PREVIOUS MESSAGES)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 11099 210637 Z

AT ZC210330. THIS LOCATION ENABLED THIRD COMPANY TO SURVEY AN INFILTRATION ROUTE UP THE THU BON RIVER TOWARD HIEP DUC. IN A HEAVY ENGAGEMENT ON JUNE 8, THE COMPANY WAS FORCED OFF THE HILLS. THE BATTALION CP AT DA TRACH (AT803386) WAS SHELLED CONCURRENTLY.

3. SHORTLY BEFORE THE SECOND CEASEFIRE THE THIRD COMPANY WAS SENT BACK TO DUI CHIEN. AT 1130 JUNE 15 WHILE IN PROCESS OF SETTLING BACK IN, IT HAD A HEAVY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ENEMY, INCLUDING ARTILLERY FIRE AND A GROUND ATTACK RESULTING IN FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 10 WIA; ENEMY 31 KIA. AS RESULT OF THIS PRESSURE, WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL THE 17 TH, THIRD COMPANY WAS ORDERED TO WITHDRAW FROM DUI CHIEN TO THE WEST. WITHDRAWAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT 2200 JUNE 17, ONLY SHORTLY BEFORE A MAJOR ENEMY ATTACK WHICH WOULD LIKELY HAVE OVERRUN ITS DEFENSIVE POSITIONS HAD IT REMAINED. IN AN ATTEMPTED MEDEVAC NEAR DUI CHIEN 1- ARMED HUEY WAS DOWNED AT AT790345.

4. THE BATTALION CP WAS ALSO SHELLED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THIS PERIOD. IN COUNTER- BATTERY FIRE, TWO 105 ARTILLERY PIECES AT DA TRACH FIRED OVER 600 ROUNDS IN THE JUNE 16-17 TIME PERIOD. THESE WERE NOT REPORTED IN THE JUNE 18 I CORPS BRIEFING. DURING THE ACTION USE OF FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WAS RESTRICTED BY CORPS HQ. CORPS DIS, HOWEVER, GRANT AN EXCEPTION TO ITS PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF ARTILLERY AND PERMITTED THE 105' S TO FIRE (AS NOTED ABOVE) IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY WERE DENIED.

5. AS OF 0800 JUNE 20 THE THIRD COMPANY HAD REACHED DA TRACH. THE SECOND COMPANY HAS MOVED 3 KMS NORTH OF HILL 485 (ZC193349) ITS ORIGINAL POSITION, AND TWO RECONNAISSANCE SECTIONS REMAIN SEVERAL KMS TO THE NORTHWEST OF DUI CHIEN TO MONITOR ENEMY MOVEMENTS.

6. THE THIRDDIVG-3 BELIEVES THE ENEMY COULD HAVE TWO POSSIBLE INTENTIONS IN ATTACKING DUI CHIEN AND CONCURRENTLY SHELLING DA TRACH: A) EITHER THE MAIN EFFORT IS TO DRIVE THE THIRD COMPANY FROM DUI CHIEN AND FREE THE INFILTRATION CORRIDOR TO HIEP DUC, IN WHICH CASE THE SHELLINGS OF DA TRACH ARE MERELY DIVERSIONARY TO PREVENT RELIEF OF DUI CHIEN; OR B) THE ACTION IS THE BEGINNING OF A DRIVE TO PUSH THE 78 TH RANGERS FROM DA TRACH ITSELF IN PREPARATION FOR A POSSIBLE ATTACK BY THE 711 DIV AGAINST DUC DUC DISTRICT TOWN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 11099 210637 Z

7. ACCORDING TO THE THIRD DIV G-3 THE FACT THAT THE ENEMY HAS COMMITTED THE 711 TH' S 10 TH SAPPER BN AND SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS OF A HEAVY WEAPONS BN (INCLUDING 12.7 ANTI- AIRCRAFT MACHINE GUNS WHICH WERE USED TO DOWN THE HUEY AND 112- MM MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY PIECES WHICH HAD BEEN SIGHTED AT AT803308) SUGGESTS THAT THEIR INTENT IS OPTION B) AND THE EFFORT IS TO OPEN A CORRIDOR TO DUC

DUC.

8. I CORPS G-2 DISCOUNTS ENEMY INTENT TO ATTACK DUC DUC. HE ACCEPTS THE ASSESSMENT THAT ENEMY WAS SEEKING TO FREE AN INFILTRATION ROUTE AS DESCRIBED IN OPTION A).

9. THE GVN HAS PLACED A COMPLAINT REGARDING THE ATTACKS ON THE 78 TH RANGER BN WITH THE ICCS. BECAUSE THE GVN SAYS IT IS UNABLE TO ASSURE SECURITY OR PROVIDE GROUND TRANSPORTATION FOR AN INVESTIGATION, NONE WILL BE HELD, ACCODING TO THE CANDEL. THOMSEN

UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON11099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730626/aaaajmv.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <18-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980218
Subject: 78 TH RANGERS IN QUANG NAM CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED
QUOTE DANANG 0749 E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT VY SUBJ: 78 TH RANGERS IN QUANG NAM
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: CINCPAC
EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

